(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Media Commission;

(b) whether it is due to the rise in the number of TV channels; and

(c) if so, the role of this Media Commission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The proposal and its various aspects are under examination.

FDI in news channels

2742. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have referred the issue of foreign investment in news channels and their uplinking to a Group of Ministers to take a view;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry's proposal include the nature of investment entities;

(c) if so, by when the Group of Ministers is likely to submit its recommendations; and

(d) what are the other issues that has been referred to this Group of Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the proposal for Review of the existing Uplinking Policy. The GoM is yet to finalize its recommendations. The time frame cannot be indicated.

Studio centres

2743. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of studio centres in the country and how many of them have complete digitalization and partial digitalization;

(b) the details of the studio centres earmarked for complete digitalization and partial digitalization during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each centre covered under(b) above?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Sixty three Doordarshan (DD) studio centres and 206 radio centres are currently operational in the country. Of these, 9 Doordarshan studio centres and 79 radio centres are fully digitalized while 9 Doordarshan studio centres and 59 radio centres are partially digitalized.

(b) and (c) During 2005-06 and 2006-07, ten studio centres of Doordarshan are targeted to be fully digitalized and twenty-two partially digitalized, at a cost of about Rs.164 crore. As regards All India Radio, 61 and 66 studio centres are to be completely digitalized during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively, at a cost of approximately Rs.31.91 crore. Their implementation would however, depend on approval and availability of funds.

Punjabi language in DD/AIR

2744. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjabi is one of the National languages and it is second language in Haryana and Delhi;

(b) how much time is devoted on Punjabi language in Doordarshan and All India Radio Stations in Haryana and Delhi;

(c) whether news in Punjabi is broadcasted on TV and Radio Stations in Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) .whether any special programmes in Punjabi language are produced in these States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Punjabi is one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It is second language in